

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 PRS-01
SIG-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 JUSE-00 FBIE-00 SY-05 CPR-01
/100 R

DRAFTED BY EA/VLC:MPOWENS:JY
APPROVED BY EA:ROAKLEY
S/PRS: JTRATTNOR
EA/P: JCANNON
IO/UNP:MR. BERRY
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O 040019Z PEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RANGOON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, ASEC

SUBJECT: INDICTMENT FOR ESPIONAGE AND COMPROMISE OF DOCUMENTS

1. FOR POSTS INFORMATION ONLY, FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN MADE AT NOON BRIEFING FEBRUARY 3 AND QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS PREPARED FOR HIS USE IF ASKED. POSTS SHOULD CONTINUE TO REFER ALL INQUIRES TO THE DEPARTMENT ON THIS MATTER.

BEGIN TEXT: THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT TODAY OFFICIALLY REQUESTED THAT SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS DINH BA THI LEAVE THE UNITED STATES. THE ACTION WAS TAKEN PURSUANT TO SECTION 13(B) OF THE 1947 UN HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH THE UNITED STATES RETAINS THE RIGHT TO REQUEST THE DEPARTURE OF MEMBERS OF FOREIGN MISSIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS WHO HAVE ABUSED THEIR PRIVILEGES OF RESIDENCE. THE UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS TRANSMITTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE REQUEST BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO THE SRV MISSION. THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS KEPT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND HIS STAFF INFORMED OF OUR DECISION TO REQUEST AMBASSADOR THI'S DEPARTMENT. END TEXT.

Q: WHEN WILL AMBASSADOR THI BE FORCED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY?

A: AMBASSADOR THI HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO LEAVE THE UNITED STATES PROMPTLY.

Q: DO YOU PLAN ACTION AGAINST OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SRV UN MISSION?

A: NONE IS PRESENTLY FORESEEN.

Q: WHO DOES THIS LEAVE AT THE VIETNAM MISSION AT THE UNITED NATIONS?

A: I DON'T KNOW. YOU WILL HAVE TO CHECK WITH THE VIETNAM MISSION.

Q: IS THIS THE FIRST TIME THE U.S. HAS EVER PNG'D A UN AMBASSADOR? UN DIPLOMATS OF OTHER NATIONALITIES, FOR EXAMPLE, THE SOVIETS, HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN ESPIONAGE CASES IN THE PAST AND YET NO AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN EXPELLED. YOU SEEM TO BE PICKING ON THE VIETNAMESE. CAN WE HAVE YOUR COMMENT?

A: YES. BUT THIS IS ALSO THE FIRST TIME A UN AMBASSADOR HAS EVER BEEN NAMED AS AN UNINDICTED CO-CONSPIRATOR IN AN ESPIONAGE CASE.

Q: WHAT PROOF DO YOU HAVE THAT JUSTIFIES AMBASSADOR THI'S REMOVAL?

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A: WE OBVIOUSLY CAN'T COMMENT SINCE ANY COMMENT COULD PREJUDICE THE CASE.

Q: HAVE YOU INFORMED THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT OF YOUR REQUEST THAT AMBASSADOR THI LEAVE THE COUNTRY?

A: YES. WE HAVE INFORMED THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT BOTH IN NEW YORK AND PARIS OF OUR DECISION.

Q: IT HAS BEEN MORE THAN THREE DAYS SINCE THE GRAND JURY INDICTMENT WAS ANNOUNCED IN THIS CASE. WHY HAS IT TAKEN YOU SO LONG TO MAKE THIS OFFICIAL REQUEST FOR AMBASSADOR THI'S REMOVAL?

A: I AM NOT AT LIBERTY TO COMMENT.

Q: DOES THIS ACTION MEAN THE UNITED STATES IS LITERALLY DECLARING AMBASSADOR THI PERSONNA NON GRATA?

A: YES, THAT IS THE EFFECT.

Q: NOW THAT YOU HAVE TAKEN THE UNIQUE STEP OF REQUESTING THE VIETNAMESE UN AMBASSADOR'S DEPARTURE, WHAT EFFECT DO YOU FEEL THIS WILL HAVE ON YOUR RELATIONS WITH THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT?

A: WE HAVE SAID WE REGARD THIS AS A SERIOUS MATTER, BEYOND THAT I HAVE NO COMMENT.

Q: HOW DOES THIS AFFECT THE PROGRESS OF YOUR ONGOING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT?

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A: I AM NOT GOING TO SPECULATE. NO FURTHER MEETINGS ARE SCHEDULED, BUT THE TWO SIDES HAD AGREED TO CONTINUE THEIR MEETINGS DURING THE COURSE OF THE YEAR.

Q: IS IT UP TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO SEE THAT THE AMBASSADOR LEAVES?

A: NO. THE HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT MAKES IT CLEAR THAT IT IS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS THE RIGHT TO DECIDE WHETHER A REPRESENTATIVE OF ANOTHER GOVERNMENT TO THE UNITED NATIONS IS ABUSING HIS STATUS UNDER THE HEAD-QUARTERS AGREEMENT. WE HAVE KEPT THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND HIS STAFF INFORMED AS THIS CASE DEVELOPED.

2. FOR USUN ONLY: YOU MAY DRAW ON GUIDANCE PROVIDED ABOVE AS NECESSARY TO REPLY TO INQUIRIES IN NEW YORK.

3. FULL TRANSCRIPT OF DEPARTMENT BRIEFING WILL FOLLOW IN WIRELESS FILE. VANCE

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADORS, ESPIONAGE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE029796
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MPOWENS:JY
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D780053-0015
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197802113/aaaafppl.tel
Line Count: 199
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: 16609cce-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3462305
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 970827
Subject: INDICTMENT FOR ESPIONAGE AND COMPROMISE OF DOCUMENTS
TAGS: ASEC, PDIP, TH, PDIP
To: BANGKOK BELGRADE MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/16609cce-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014